

2320 Central Street
Evanston, IL 60201

December 3, 2005

Application 10/664,773

Carl D. Friedman
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600
USPTO

Dear Sir:

Until I received your communication of 11/28/05 I was at a loss as to how to respond to the questions raised on 9/16/05. As I indicated to the examiner I would gladly have retained a patent attorney but I cannot afford to do so.

The patent which I am seeking if successfully developed represents a most significant potential which I would seek to share via a joint venture with a Federal agency such as the USDA's Forest Products Laboratory.

Preliminary research indicates that Integrated Framing could reduce housing framing costs by \$6,000 to \$8,000 for the average home. According to the Brookings Institute over two million new homes will be needed to be constructed in each of the next 35 years to meet the demands of population growth and replacement of older housing.

In response to the 9/16/05 Detailed Action:

Information Disclosure Statement

Patent 6,134,859, cited by the examiner, discusses U.S. Patent 5,285,615 in its Background and Prior Art Section as well as U.S. Patent 3,960,637 and uses these patents to advance its own case. In addition 6,134,859 cites 8 other pertinent patents. We cited only two patents in much the same way.

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Claim Rejections

I wish to withdraw claims 2, 3, and 4 from my application since further study has convinced me that use of the Integrated Framing Stud Assembly will inherently provide the advantages claimed in 2, 3, and 4.

Specification

Character 14 is used to describe the floor joist, Character 12 describes the foundation.

Claim Rejections

Claim 1 of our application is said to have been anticipated by 6,134,859 which is alleged to disclose a “composite stud”. The language in 6,134,859 claims a “metal and wood composite.....used to create framing members (studs & tracks, joists & bands, rafters, headers & the like) for light weight construction.....” In the claim section of that patent what is claimed is a “stud support member formed of mixed composite materials....”

The above patent never describes, claims or portrays a usable stud support member nor is the term understandable on its own. What is a support? How is a stud supported? The use of a composite of metal and wood does not preclude the use of the word composite which in the American Heritage Dictionary is defined: “1. made up of distinct components or elements”

The stud claimed in our application is three pieces of the same material fastened together in a H shaped configuration which provides more than five times the contact surface used to fasten stud to joist when compared to present framing methods. The stud in our invention is a fully processed structural member ready to be used in frame construction and not a metal & wood combination which can be formed into many things per their own claim.

Conclusion

To summarize we are withdrawing claims 2, 3, and 4 as being redundant.

We ask for your assistance per our application in drafting claim 1. I am submitting a revised claim for your attention.

I claim:

A multipart stud composed of three similar materials with an elongated H shape which sits astride the full depth of a lower joist and the contiguous sill plate and encompasses one half of the upper joist with the remaining half of the joist supporting another stud assembly attached to a second floor joist or roof rafter .

I hope that I have answered the objections raised and stand ready to comply with any additional requests.

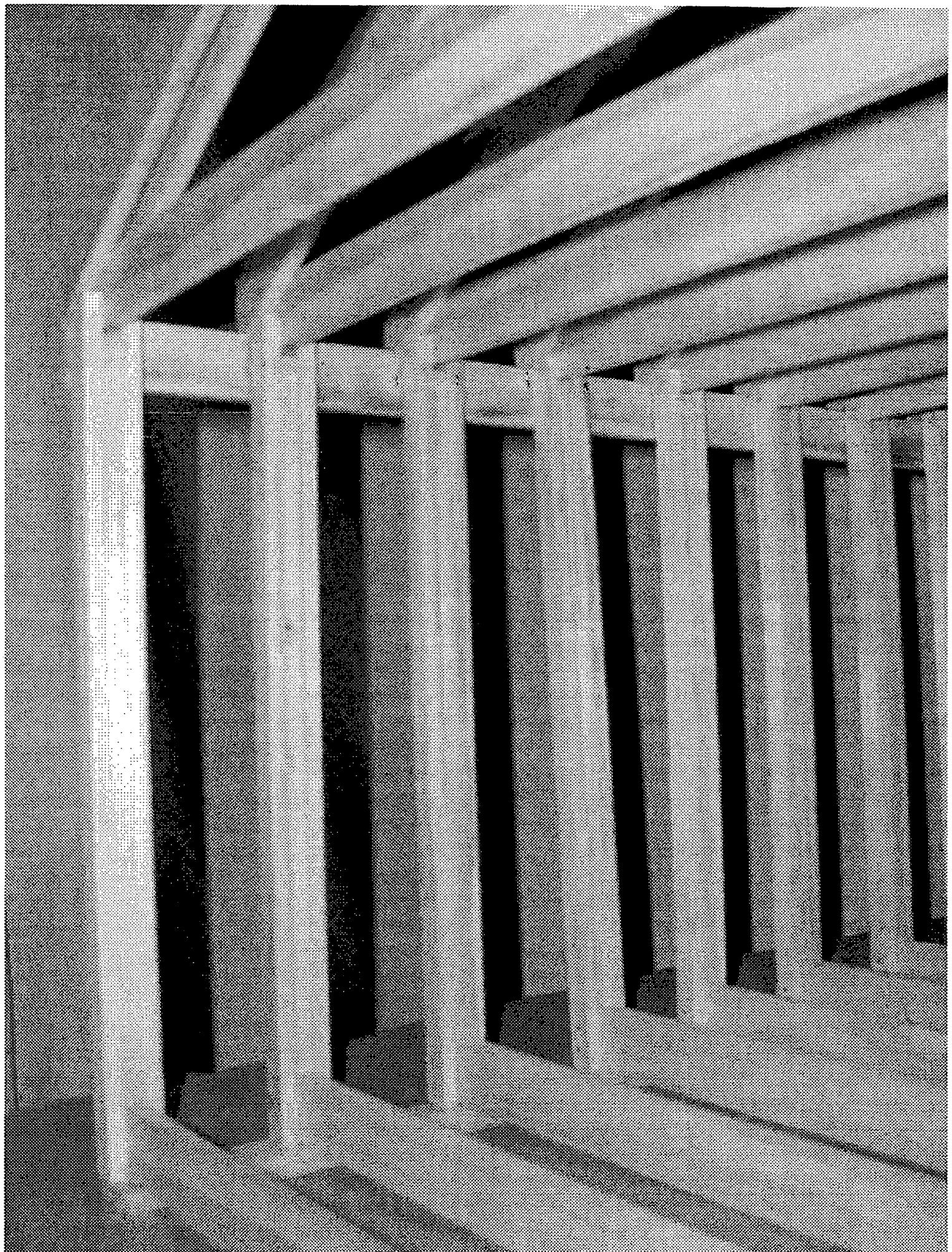
Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence P. Conroy". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with "Lawrence" on top and "P. Conroy" below it.

Lawrence P. Conroy

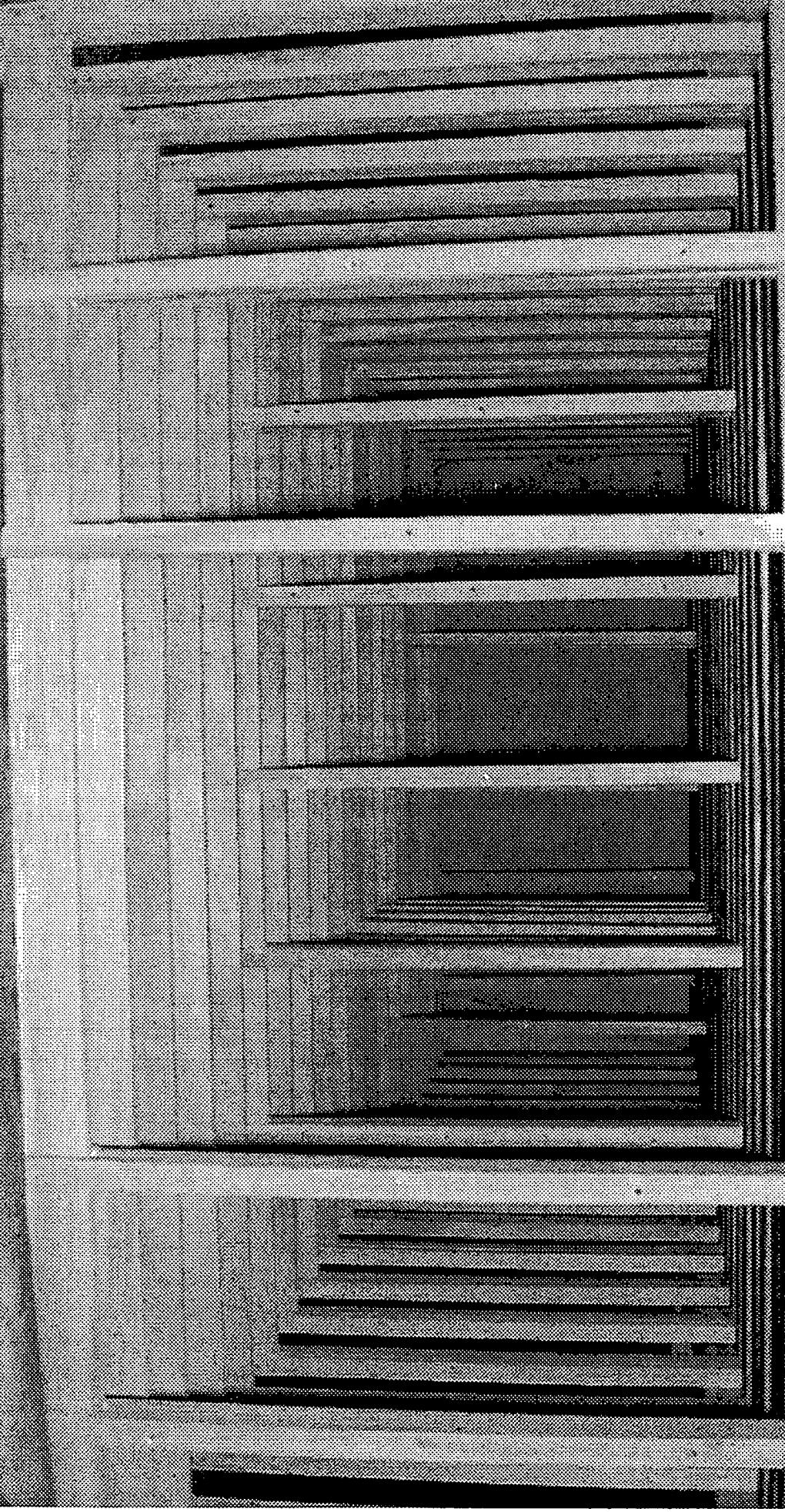
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FOREGROUND OUTSIDE STUDS

41 INTERIOR STUDS

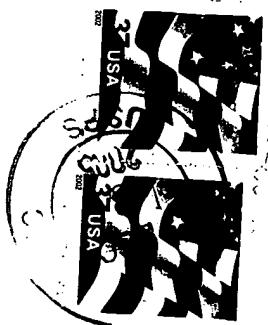


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ATTN: CARK D. FRIEDMAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 3600

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